M. H. Crane,

Coffin.

No. 38,443. Patented May 5, 1863.

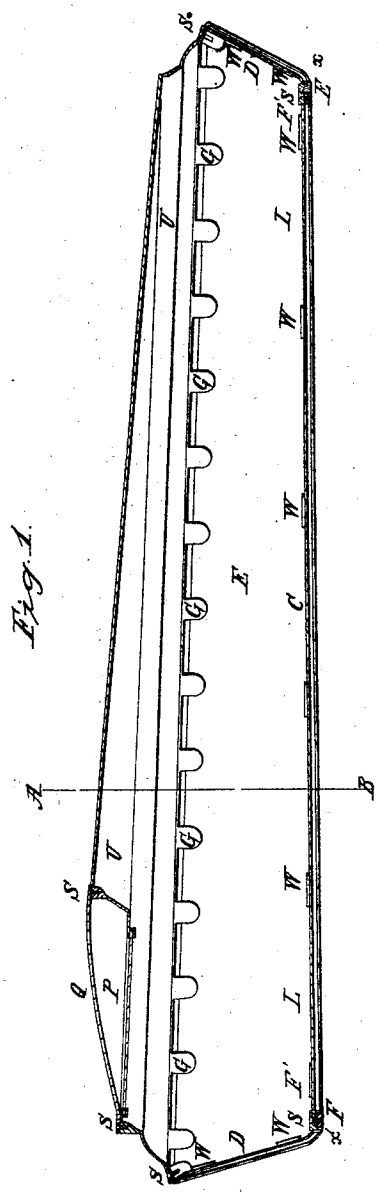

Fig. 1.

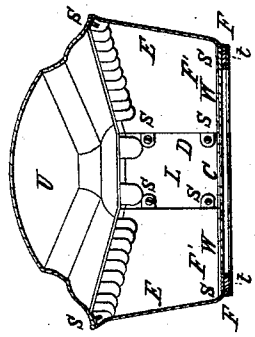

Fig. 2.

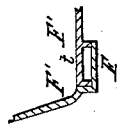

Fig. 3.

Witnesses:

Wm. H. Harrison

Wm. F. Brooks

Inventor:

Martin H. Crane

by A. Pollock

Att'y

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARTIN H. CRANE, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO, ASSIGNOR TO CRANE, BREED & CO., OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN METALLIC BURIAL-CASES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **38,443**, dated May 5, 1863.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARTIN H. CRANE, of Cincinnati, in the county of Hamilton and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Metallic Burial-Cases; and I hereby declare that the following, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, forms such a full, clear, and exact description of the same as will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same.

My invention has for its object, first, the portability of metallic burial cases, so that the same may be compactly packed for transportation, and thereby facilitate their general introduction. To this end the first part of my invention consists in the production, as a new article of manufacture, of a sectional metallic burial-case—that is to say, a case whose upper and lower shell, or either, are composed of two or more parts which may be united for use or disunited for transportation, at pleasure.

The object of the second part of my invention is to make the casting of metallic burial-cases as light as possible consistently with the strength requisite, and otherwise to facilitate their manufacture, thereby to cheapen the product. To this end the second part of my invention consists in making metallic burial-cases with the top, bottom, ends, and sides cast in separate pieces or sections and united at the angles by overlapping flanges.

The third part of my invention has for its object the formation of a perfect and durable joint between the several sections, which either or both the upper and lower shell of a metallic burial-case shall be composed of. To this end the third part of my invention consists in forming upon each section a flange arranged to lap over or under a corresponding section-flange in such manner as to admit of the interposition of a cementing substance.

The fourth part of my invention has for its object the fastening of the covering-lid or upper shell to the lower shell; also, the securing together the several sections of which either shell is composed by means of a screw, or by any other fastening device, so as to afford a hold to the same within the interior of the case. To this end the fourth part of my invention consists in providing the flanges of the lower-shell sections with lugs, or their equivalent, to receive the ends of the screws.

Metallic burial-cases as heretofore made of two parts—*i. e.*, of an upper and lower shell—present, as an article of manufacture and trade, the disadvantage that they are voluminous, inclosing much empty space, which renders their storage and transportation so expensive as to offer a serious impediment to their general introduction. On the other hand, the casting of so large a piece as the lower shell of a burial-case is a delicate operation, and necessitates that considerable thickness should be given to the casting, the weight of which is one of the great objections so metallic burial-cases.

My improved metallic burial-case, being composed of sections or parts jointed together, can be readily dismembered and compactly packed for transportation or storage, and may be shipped or stored at comparatively little cost, while by casting them in sections the surface over which the molten metal runs is so reduced that a very light, cheap, yet strong casting may be produced. Thus it will be seen that by my improvement I am enabled to produce a metallic burial case which is or may be made lighter and at less cost than any other heretofore in use.

In the accompanying drawings I have shown in Figure 1 a longitudinal, in Fig. 2 a transverse, section on line A B, Fig. 1, of my sectional burial-case, and in Fig. 3 a detail view.

The case is composed of an upper and a lower shell, U and L, whose general configuration may conform to those heretofore in use, or may be adapted to any other design or form that may be desirable. The lower shell is here shown as composed of separate plates or sections, the lines of division of which are the corners or angles formed by the bottom C, the ends D, and the sides E. These plates or sections are provided along the division-line with flanges F F′, so formed as to overlap each other. In some cases I prefer to form a groove, *t*, in the flanges, as shown, in those of the bottom plate, for the double purpose of properly confining the cementing substance used between the flanges and of preventing the lugs *x* cast with the corresponding flange F in the section in contiguity therewith, to form a gap between the two flanges. To the upper edge on the inside of side pieces and ends I cast a series of lugs, G, preferably of a spherical or

other rounded form. These are screw-threaded, and receive the screws whereby the lid is fastened to the coffin. The screws S are countersunk, so that their heads come flush with the surface of the pieces, and into which it is secured. If the casting be so thin as to afford no depth to properly countersink the head of the screws, I use washers or cast round disks in with the plate in that part thereof which is to contain the heads of the screws. Otherwise the burial-case may be made in the usual manner. Thus a glass plate, P, may be inserted opposite the face part of the coffin, and a removable protecting-cover, R, may be screwed over it.

Having thus described my invention and the manner in which the same is or may be carried into effect, I wish to be understood as not confining myself to the execution of details herein described, it being obvious that they are susceptible of many modifications without departure from the principle of my invention; but

I do claim—

1. The production, as a new article of manufacture, of a sectional metallic burial-case—that is to say, a case whose lower shell, or both upper and lower shells, is composed of two or more parts which may be united for use or disunited for transportation, at pleasure, substantially as set forth.

2. Making the top, bottom, ends, and sides cast in separate pieces or sections, united at the angles by overlapping flanges, substantially as set forth.

3. Forming upon each section a flange arranged to lap over or under a corresponding section-flange in such a manner as to admit of the interposition of a cementing substance, substantially as set forth.

4. Providing the flanges of the lower-shell sections with lugs, or their equivalent, to receive the ends of the screws, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification before two subscribing witnesses.

M. H. CRANE.

Witnesses:
JAMES CALHOUN,
ISAAC C. MASON.